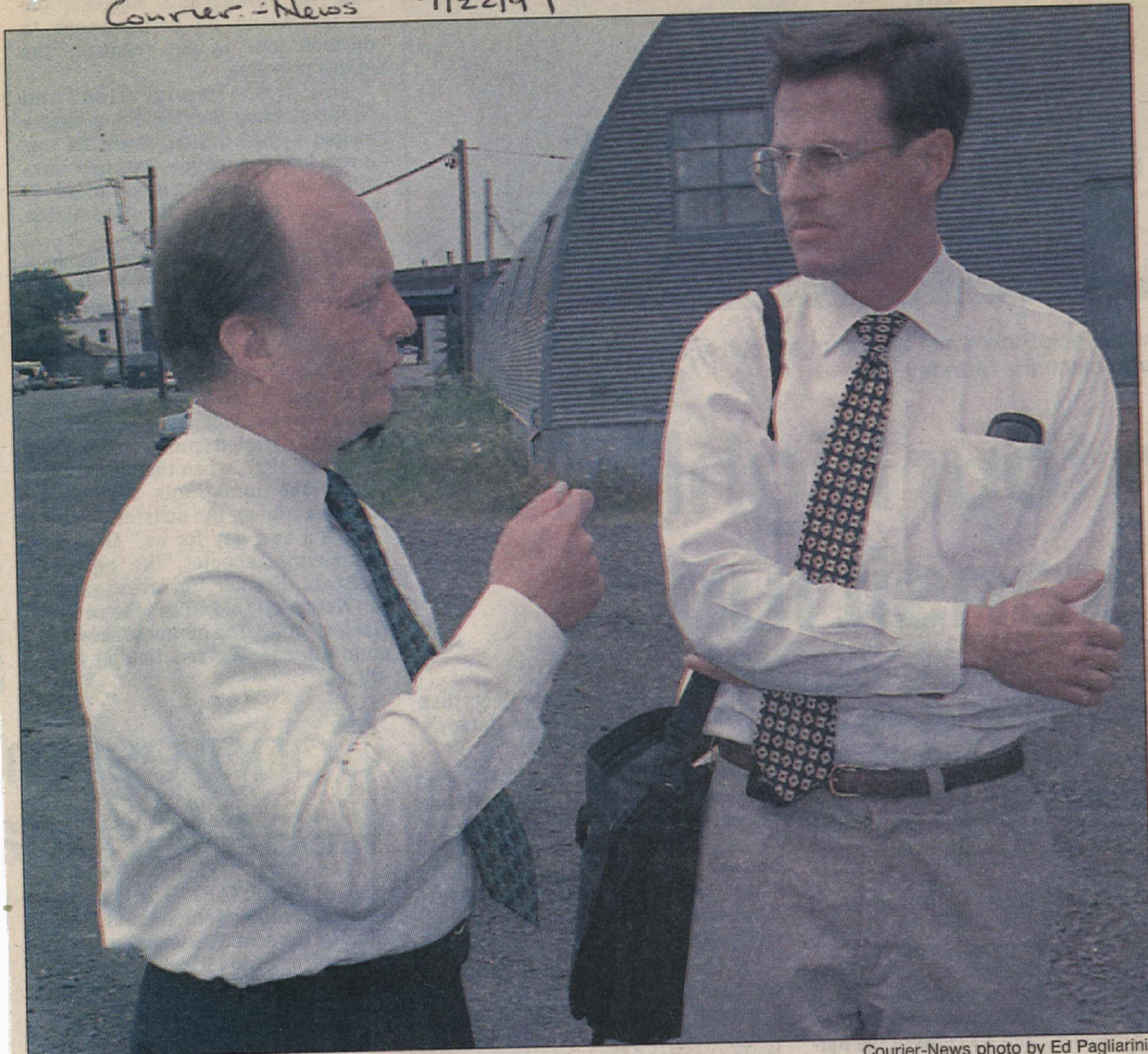


# Toxic soil to be paved over

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Courier-News photo by Ed Pagliarini

Congressman Bob Franks talks to Eric Wilson, on-scene coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency, at Hamilton Industrial Park in South Plainfield.

## Franks warns delay could bring hefty fine

By **BILL BOWMAN**  
Courier-News Staff Writer

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — Owners of a contaminated industrial site could face fines of up to \$25,000 a day if next week's scheduled paving of a driveway and parking areas is delayed again, an Environmental Protection Agency spokesman said Monday.

Paving of contaminated, graveled areas at Hamilton Industrial Park, Hamilton Boulevard, should begin Monday, Eric Wilson, an EPA on-scene coordinator told Rep. Bob Franks, R-New Providence. Franks toured the site Monday with Wilson and several borough officials.

Franks said he "would love" to be present when the expected paving begins next week, adding that he would urge EPA Administrator Carol

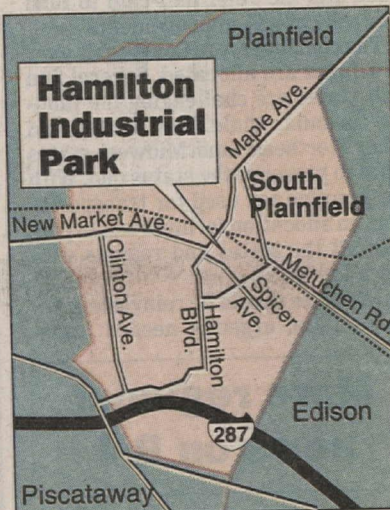
Browner to impose "the most severe form of financial penalty" against DSC Enterprises of Newark, the property owner, if paving is canceled again, as it was on June 8.

The paving is expected to take three weeks to complete, Wilson said. Additional fencing and drainage control — to guard against further seepage into the Bound Brook — could take an additional six weeks, he said.

Unacceptable levels of PCBs, cadmium and lead have been found at the Hamilton Boulevard site, known to the EPA as the Cornell-Dubilier site, named after the property's former owners. Long-term exposure to PCBs has been linked to cancer.

Cornell was a manufacturer of electrical components. PCBs were widely used as coolants and lubricants in electrical equipment, until their use was banned in 1977.

Area residents and employees on



C-N map by Gary Stelzer

the site have been assured by federal and local officials that the PCBs pose no immediate health threat. The EPA has taken a host of soil samples from the Bound Brook, which runs along the property's rear border, and from homes along Spicer Avenue, which also borders the property.

Results from the water tests should

□ See SOIL on Page A-5



## SOIL: Paving set for Monday

□ Continued from Page A-1

be available in two weeks, Wilson said. Spicer Avenue residents said they were told the soil samples would take about two months to test.

Twelve-year-old Eduardo Belasquez of 130 Spicer Ave. said he used to play around the industrial park, but he doesn't anymore. "My friends eat fish they catch in the Bound Brook," he added.

Graveled areas on the site were supposed to have been paved June 8, but the contractor backed out after a health and safety briefing prior to starting work, Wilson said.

"The foreman was not comfortable with proceeding after the briefing, and the contractor had no one else to run the job," Wilson explained.

Wilson said EPA could impose a fine as high as \$25,000 a day if the paving is delayed a second time.

The graveled areas are a concern because trucks regularly drive through, kicking up contaminated

dust. The paving, along with planned fencing, is seen as a stopgap measure until a more comprehensive remedial plan can be crafted.

The area is being considered for inclusion in the EPA's National Priorities List. Franks said he does not "want the issue of whether or not this gets on" the list to delay any remedial action.

Included in the entourage surveying the property were Mayor Daniel Gallagher and Councilman Ed Kubala.

Gallagher said the borough asked Franks to step in after years of inaction by the EPA.

"We got unnerved that we didn't see anything definitive taking place," Gallagher said. "There is no doubt in my mind that things will move quickly now."

Kubala questioned why the June paving was delayed. "Someone should have talked to the contractor and found out what they were qualified to do," he said. "I don't know where the breakdown was."

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